Then And Now

By Frances H. Paulette

"Valentine's Day---Remember?"

How many of you remember singing just such a catchy little tune as children, when Valentine's Day arrived? Maybe instead you chanted the old, familiar rhyme - - -

"Roses are red, violets are blue,
Sugar is sweet, and so are you!"

Sounds kind of silly, you say? Then maybe you went to the store, bought a gorgeously extravagant creation, mailed it to your very special sweetheart with only a "guess who" on the back.

When I was in high school each girl looked forward to getting a beautiful, heart-shaped box of candy from her very special beau on February 14. For years I kept the empty boxes, (their red satin ribbons fading a little each year), as if to put each Valentine's Day on memory's shelf, just waiting to be taken down, remembered, relived and enjoyed once more in all the romance and sweetness that goes with being young on Valentine's Day.

Possibly you remember a big, gaily decorated cardboard box when you were in grade school. It might have had a huge slit in the top; for days before February 14 rolled around friends dropped numerous, gay, missives into the box, some handmade and some "store bought". The message was essentially the same - - - love; whether for a friend, a favorite teacher, or that special girl or guy. They would be taken out of the big, red box on Valentine's Day ready to be read, reread, and treasured.

It seems that February 14 has lost some of the romatic character that it had back in the days of THEN. About the time of the Civil War the valentine was at the height of its popularity with the young and old alike.

Just who was Saint Valentine and how did all this business of exchanging valentines begin? The author Brand, in his book "Popular Antiquities" claims that St. Valentine's Day has been observed since 1446.

Saint Valentine is the name given to three different martyrs whose feast day falls on February 14. One Saint Valentine was a Roman priest and doctor who was beheaded about AD 269. The second was a bishop who is believed to have been beheaded in Rome about AD 273. The third was a martyr in Arica about who very little is known.

The custom of St. Valentine's Day has no connection with the lives of these saints excepting their feast day. While there are many different explanations for the custom of sending love tokens and pretty cards of greeting, the most plausible explanation is that Saint Valentine's Day is a survival of a Roman festival held around the 14th of February.

One old custom that was observed many years ago in parts of Scotland and England was for the girls to look through the keyhole of a door on the morning of St. Valentine's Day. If they saw only a single object or a person they would take this as a sign they would remain unmarried for that one year only; if they saw two or more persons or objects they would be sure to have a sweetheart, but if they were lucky enough to see a hen and a rooster through the keyhole, they could be certain of being married before the year was out!!

Did you know that among some rural people of days gone by, there was the superstition that the birds selected their mates on Valentine's Day.

So, what does February 14th mean to you? Just another day of remembering someone special or being remembered by someone special in a romantic sort of way? Whether with candy, flowers, an unusual gift or a valentine card, take time to make a beautiful memory for someone special - - - a memory to be taken down from the shelf of time, sometime in the future, and relived and cherished.

"Mister Postman, look and see Is there a Valentine for me?"

GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS CHECK TO ACHS

Mrs. Lucille Ferrell, Horticulture Chairman of the Appomattox Garden Club, is shown above presenting a check for $75.00 from the club to Mr. Don Armentrout, Principal at Appomattox County High School. The money has been contributed to purchase some shrubs to be used in the landscape plan at the high school.

The Garden Club members hope that this will serve to encourage other civic organizaitons to make similar contributions.

Promotions Announced By King's Markets

Ralph J. King, President of King's Markets, Inc., a 21 store supermarket chain with headquarters in Lynchburg, recently announced corporate promotions.

Harvey L. King, Jr. was named Executive Vice President. He has been in the grocery business since 1962, and is co-owner in the Company. He, his wife, Shirley and son, Terry, reside in Brookneal, Va.

Lawson B. Saul was elected Vice President in charge of Operations and General Manager. A graduate of the University of Toledo, Mr. Saul joined King's in April, 1976. Mr. Saul has over 28 years of experience with two of the largest supermarket chains in top executive positions. He and his family live at 101 Locksley Place, Forest, Va.

James A. Garrett has been named Vice President in charge of Administration and Assistant Treasurer. He joined King's in 1967 and has advanced from assistant office manager, office manager, assistant controller and most recently was controller. He is a native of Appomattox County and the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred H. Garrett. He is a resident of Lynchburg.

James P. Fitzpatrick was promoted from assistant controller to Controller and Assistant Secretary. He has been with King's since October of 1975. A graduate of Virginia Tech with a BS Degree in Accounting, he previously served with a Lynchburg CPA firm. He and his wife, Dona, reside at 922 Rothowood Rd., Lynchburg.

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Local Resident Assisted By Amateur 'Ham' Radio

Mr. William Moore of Appomattox tried for several days to telephone his brother Larry of Tonawanda, New York in the Buffalo area. Mr. Moore was concerned about his brother, due to news reports of severe snow storms in that area, but he was unable to make contact by telephone due to the extra heavy load on the phone lines.

Mr. Moore asked a local Amateur 'Ham' radio operator Douglas Atchinson of Pamplin (Amateur call K4IXL) for help in the situation, who was able to make contact with another 'HAM' in Tonawanda, N.Y. who located Mr. Moore's brother and affirmed that 'All was well except for being snowed in'.

Doug Atchinson has been a 'HAM' for over 20 years and is a member of 'Southside Amateur Radio Association', an organization of licensed Amateurs in the Southside Virginia area, the club is part of the American Radio Relay League.

Ham Radio operators are often called on to help in emergencies when normal communications become disrupted. They have 'World Wide' Communication capabilities. Through their Radio Amateur National Traffic System, they send and receive messages to and from ALL Parts of the U.S. each day (The networks are operated 365 days a year). Hams are authorized to operate their equipment with up to one thousand (1000) Watts of power, using Voice (AM and) Morse Code, Radio teletype, and slow scan Television, at present the HAMS have several satellites in space called OSCARS (ORBITING SATELLITES CARRYING AMATEUR RADIOS). The OSCAR Satellites are automatic repeating relay stations on a POLAR orbit allowing HAMs to communicate over very long ranges using very small low power equipment.

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BECKHAM

Karen Carter spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stallings and girls spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moore and Timmy Moore.

On February 3rd, Mrs. Gibbs Martin was honored on her birthday with a flower from Superior Trees Nursery from WTTX. Congratulations!

Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs Martin were: Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Martin, Jr., Miss Kathy Martin, Miss Dianne Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Yeatts, Mr. Gary Yeatts, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Martin and boys, Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Carter, Crystal and Karen, Mrs. Geraldine Moore, Miss Debbie Moore, Gwen Moore, Miss Rita Page, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parmley, Kim Maxwell, Mrs. Charles Tweedy, Tracey Tweedy, Jr. and Mrs. Wayne Moore, Annitta, Angie, and Bruce.

Miss Dawn Martin and Mrs. Howard visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin of Lynchburg Sunday afternoon. Mr. Martin is on the sick list.

FHA Meets

Appomattox Senior Chapter Future Homemakers of America held their monthly meeting in Appomatox County High School cafeteria on January 26, 1977. The meeting was called to order by the President, Teresa Cyrus. Janet Fitzgerald gave devotions. The Secretary's report was given by Pam Taylor. The Treasurer's report was given by Sandy Jamerson. Teresa Cyrus made a report on upcoming FHA week. Vice-president Cheryl Elliott explained the program, skits on family situations. All chapter members present were divided into groups with an officer assisting. Each group planned a 2-minute skit, which were presented as the program. The meeting was adjourned by President Teresa Cyrus.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN

Mr. Ronnie Morris of VPI & SU came home Saturday for a brief visit. He also visited Mr. David Drinkard at his home in Oakville. He returned to VPI on Sunday evening. Mr. Jerry May and Miss Carolyn Morris were Sunday dinner guests in this home.

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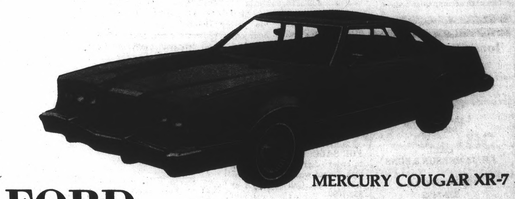
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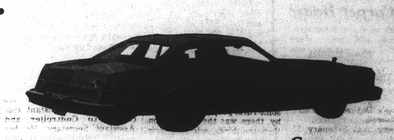
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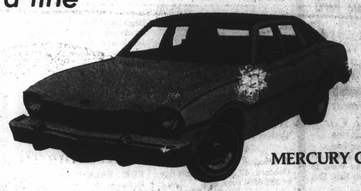
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